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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
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ACDA-12 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /122 W
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0953
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNGA, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: FIRST MEETING OF UNGA SPECIAL SESSION

SUMMARY: GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION ON NAMIBIA BEGAN APRIL 24. OPENING HIGHLIGHT WAS SPEECH BY SWAPO PRESIDENT NUJOMA IN WHICH HE SAID SWAPO WOULD REPLY TO THE WESTERN FIVE ON THEIR SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL IN "DUE COURSE". ONLY OTHER SPEAKERS AT MORNING MEETING WERE COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA PRESIDENT KONIE (ZAMBIA) AND COMMITTEE
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OF 24 CHAIRMAN SALIM (TANZANIA). END SUMMARY.

1. THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S SPECIAL SESSION ON NAMIBIA OPENED MORNING OF APRIL 24. AMBASSADOR KONIE OF ZAMBIA, PRESIDENT OF THE UN COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA, WAS SELECTED CHAIRMAN OF AN AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE 9TH SPECIAL SESSION (COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE). THE COMMITTEE WILL BEGIN WORK

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MORNING OF APRIL 25. (THE ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION IS DISCUSSED FURTHER IN SEPTEL.) THE DRAFT DECLARATION ON NAMIBIA AND PROGRAM OF ACTION SUBMITTED BY THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA WILL PROBABLY FORM THE CORE OF A REPORT BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO THE ASSEMBLY.

2. KONIE AND AMBASSADOR SALIM OF TANZANIA, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24, WERE THE FIRST TWO SPEAKERS. BOTH TOUCHED ON FAMILIAR GROUND, STRESSING THE URGENT NEED FOR ACTION ON NAMIBIA, CONTINUING ABUSES BY SOUTH AFRICA AGAINST SWAPO, THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE, AND NEIGHBORING STATES, AND THE DANGER OF A SOUTH AFRICAN-IMPOSED "INTERNAL SETTLEMENT". NEITHER COMMENTED DIRECTLY ON THE WESTERN FIVE'S PROPOSAL.

3. HIGHLIGHT OF THE MORNING MEETING WAS A LENGTHY ADDRESS BY SWAPO PRESIDENT SAM NUJOMA. (FULL TEXT POUCHED DEPT: IO/UNP, NILES.) NUJOMA GAVE NO SIGN OF SWAPO'S POSITION ON OUR FIVE-POWER PROPOSAL, AGAIN INDICATING THAT SWAPO WOULD RESPOND "IN DUE COURSE". NUJOMA, HOWEVER, PORTRAYED SWAPO AS THE PARTY THAT HAD ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. SIGNIFICANTLY, HE MADE NO REFERENCE AT ALL TO WALVIS BAY.

4. NUJOMA SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME ELABORATING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO THE MURDER OF TURNHALLE LEADER
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CLEMENS KAPUUO. STATING THAT KAPUUO HAD BECOME A VICTIM OF A CIRCLE OF SOUTH AFRICAN-INSPIRED, TURNHALLE-IMPLEMENTED VIOLENCE DIRECTED AGAINST SWAPO, NUJOMA ASSERTED THAT SWAPO HAD HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH HIS DEATH.

5. NUJOMA LAUNCHED A STRONG ATTACK AGAINST "SO-CALLED NEUTRAL" ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL STEYN, DESCRIBING HIM AS AN "INTERESTED PARTY" AND AN "AGENT OF THE SYSTEM." HE DENOUNCED STEYN'S DETENTION DECREE OF APRIL 18, DESCRIBING IT AS THE CLIMAX OF A "GENERALIZED REIGN OF TERROR."

6. SOUTH AFRICA, ACCORDING TO THE SWAPO LEADER, IS NOW ENGAGED IN A LARGE-SCALE MILITARY BUILD-UP IN NAMIBIA. NUJOMA SAID THIS HAD TWO PURPOSES: POLITICALLY, IT WAS AIMED AT BREAKING THE MORALE OF NAMIBIANS AND DESTROYING SWAPO, AND STRATEGICALLY, IT WAS FOR UNDERMINING THE STABILITY OF THE NEIGHBORING AFRICAN STATES.

7. COMMENT: NUJOMA WENT TO CONSIDERABLE LENGTHS

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TO DEMONSTRATE SWAPO'S INTEREST OVER THE YEARS IN A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AND IN IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 385. WHILE PLACING THE BLAME FOR LACK OF A PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER TO DATE ON SOUTH AFRICA "AND HER IMPERIALIST COLLABORATORS AND PARTNERS", HE CAREFULLY AVOIDED ANY COMMENT ON THE WESTERN SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL AND REFRAINED FROM BRINGING UP THE WALVIS BAY ISSUE. COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA AHTISAARI, NO DOUBT REFLECTING SWAPO COMMENTS, LATER UNDERLINED THEIR OMISSION OF WALVIS BAY FROM THE SPEECH AND THE NECESSITY FOR GIVING A CAREFUL READING TO NUJOMA'S REMARKS. YOUNG

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